

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-15, 17-21 and 27-29 have been examined. The Examiner acknowledges that claim 18 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-15, 17, 19-21 and 27-29 are rejected.

Independent claim 17 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 18 therein, thereby placing claim 17 in condition for immediate allowance. Consequently, claim 18 is canceled to avoid redundancy. It is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 20 are in condition for immediate allowance, as they depend from amended claim 17.

The remaining examined claims (i.e., claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-15, 21 and 27-29) are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

In view of the above, entry and consideration of this Amendment and allowance of claims 17 and 19-20 are respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 03-0172. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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